

**281—79.20 (256) Clinical practice standard.** The unit and its school, AEA, and facility partners shall provide clinical experiences that assist candidates in becoming successful practitioners in accordance with the following provisions. All provisions of this standard shall be demonstrated appropriately and equitably for all programs regardless of delivery model, including programs delivered by distance learning and programs offered on campus, off campus, and through any other model of delivery.

**79.20(1)** Clinical practice for candidates supports the development of knowledge, dispositions, and skills that are identified in the unit standards. The unit ensures that clinical experiences occurring in all locations are well-sequenced, supervised by appropriately qualified personnel, monitored by the unit, and integrated into the conceptual framework of the program.

**79.20(2)** Candidates participate in clinical/field experiences that include both observation and involvement in professional responsibilities. Programs document clinical expectations at various developmental levels. Clinical expectations are directly linked to coursework throughout the program, reflect collaboration among program faculty, and are shared with candidates, supervisors and cooperating mentors.

**79.20(3)** Environments for clinical/field practice support learning in context and include all of the following:

- a.* Scheduling and use of time and resources to allow candidates to participate with practitioners and learners in the school/agency/facility setting.
- b.* Learning that takes place in the context of providing high-quality instructional programs for students in a state-approved school, agency, or educational facility.
- c.* Opportunities for candidates to observe and be observed by others and to engage in discussion and reflection on clinical practice.
- d.* The involvement of candidates in relevant responsibilities directed toward the work for which they are preparing.

**79.20(4)** PK-12 school, AEA, or facility professionals share responsibility for the selection of cooperating mentors who demonstrate appropriate skills, knowledge, and dispositions.

**79.20(5)** The unit is responsible for all of the following:

- a.* Defining qualifications for candidates entering clinical practice and for cooperating mentors who support candidates in their clinical experiences.
- b.* Providing quality supervision that includes primary responsibility for communication/collaboration with cooperating mentors and candidates.
- c.* Responding to specific needs of cooperating schools and agencies.
- d.* Selection, training, evaluation and support of institution faculty members who supervise candidates.

**79.20(6)** Accountability for clinical experiences is demonstrated through the following:

- a.* Collaboration between the cooperating mentor and the college/university supervisors in formative evaluation of candidates to include identifying areas for improvement, developing and implementing plans for improvement, and determining final evaluation of the candidates.
- b.* Use of authentic performance measures appropriate to the required assignments in the clinical experiences, with written documentation and completed evaluation forms included in candidates' permanent institutional records.

**79.20(7)** The institution shall enter into a written contract with each cooperating school district, AEA, or facility that provides field experiences for candidates as stipulated in Iowa Code section 272.27.